

# Longhunter

## Sustainability Features

### Environmental Education

Every other Monday morning at 10am from August through May, a group of excited preschoolers meet at Longhunter State Park to learn about the environment. "The Nature Circle" is an interactive group made up of nature-themed stories, puppets, songs, and crafts for children aged 3-5.

This is a free program has been led by a volunteer from the park's friends group, Ms. Liana Dranes since 2008. Liana is an aquatic biologist with a local laboratory in Mt. Juliet, but still selflessly donates her time twice a month to teach the children about such things as the water cycle and rainbows and various flora and fauna such as wildflowers, trees, butterflies, rabbits, frogs, bats and dragonflies.

"Children are like little sponges", Liana says. "They are so bright and so eager. If they could grab hold of a love of science and nature, they can carry that on into their school lives and adult lives."

### Archeological Site

The Sellars Farm State Archeological Area contains the remains of a Native American community that existed in prehistoric time and

was abandoned by the time European settlers arrived in Middle Tennessee. Sellars Farm is one of the few mounds in Tennessee that is currently protected under government ownership.

Based on the things that have been found at the site, this community appears to have been occupied during the Mississippian Period, which goes from around 900 AD until about 1500 AD. Visitors can enjoy a 1-mile hike around the mound site following Spring Creek as it winds around the former village site.



## Park Highlights

- Opened in 1978, the park consists of about 2,600 acres along the eastern shoreline of J. Percy Priest Lake
- Visited by more than 860,000 people in 2011
- Hikers can enjoy 6 different trails totalling over 25 miles
- The Jones Mill mountain bike trail is located in the Bryant Grove Recreation Area. It features two loops: one two-mile loop and one four-mile loop.

## Did You Know?

The park gets its name from the skilled woodsmen from the mid-1760's who hunted in the region and later became known as long hunters, the most famous of these being Daniel Boone.